Cathedral.——The foundation stone of the new free grammar school of Queen Mary, at Walsall, was laid on Wednesday week. The building will have two fronts, one to Lichfield-street, the other to Littleton-street, and will be built in the light Elizabethan style of the South Staffordshire railway station at Walsall, and composed of brick, with stone facings, from a design by Mr. Edward Adams, of Westminster, architect. In addition to the school will be houses for the head master, second master, and master of commercial department. Mr. J. Highway, of Walsall, is the builder.——An Odd Fellows' Hall is now in progress of building in Temple-street, Birmingham: architects, Messrs. Cox and Goodwin, Lewisham; builders, Messrs. Branson and Gwythes. Amount of contract, with commission, 2,600*l*. It will consist of a suite of rooms for secretary, library, and reading-rooms, cloak-rooms, &c.; a large room to accommodate 120 persons, and a hall to seat 1,000 persons.——The stones for the church and dissenting chapels at the Leicester cemetery are about to be laid. A town museum and school of design are also about to be opened.——The foundation stone of a methodist chapel was laid at Kingswinford on 29th ult. The design of it is by Mr. Robinson, of Stourbridge, architect.——On Saturday week the foundation stone of a new church was laid at New burgh, near Wigan. The Earl of Derby pays the cost of this and another about to be built in that quarter.——The foundation-stone of another church was laid at Clayton on 29th ult. It is to be dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and has been "talked about for thirty years last past," according to the *Leeds Intelligencer*. The site has been given by Mr. John Hirst, of Clayton House. Messrs. Mallinson and Healey are the architects. The edifice is to consist of a west tower, nave with clerestory, and aisles and chancel, and to accommodate 800 persons. The dimensions are to be as follows:—tower: height, 67 feet; east to west, 20 feet; north to south, 20 feet. Nave: length, 70 feet; breadth, 20 feet. Aisles: length, 66 feet; breadth, 10 feet. Chancel: length, 29 feet; breadth, 18 feet. It is to be in a style of what the vicar calls 'decent simplicity,' a—village church devoid of ornamental decorations; the pecuniary means at the disposal of the architects being apparently very limited.——Of the sum requisite to the erection of a corn exchange, as designed at Gainsborough, namely, 4,000*l*., scarcely a fourth can be ministered, and there is some talk of converting the theatre into a substitute for the new structure.

SCENERY.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The production of Mozart's immortal opera, "Don Giovanni," at her Majesty's Theatre, having been long contemplated, and delayed by the "Lind rage," Mr. C. Marshall was enabled to give more time and thought to the preparation of the scenery for it than is usually the case, and has succeeded in producing a very fine work. The locality is Spain, and Spain, accordingly, he has depicted; but, in order to obtain variety, he has assumed that Giovanni occupied a palace erected during the dominion of the Moors. The fifth scene of the first act—the hall of the palace illuminated for the ball,—and the last scene of the second act, are accordingly Moresque — Alhambra-ish, — capitally drawn and brilliantly coloured.

The opera is altogether produced with great completeness.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

The second scene in the successful comedietta, "A Wonderful Woman,"—a view of a French road, tree-bordered,—is a charming piece of landscape painting, by Mr. Beverley.

New Wing of Licensed Victuallers Asylum.—His Royal Highness Prince Albert laid the first stone of the addition to the Asylum, which is to be called "The Ladies' Wing," on the 2nd instant. It is to cost about 4,000*l*. We were not present on the occasion; and if the statement forwarded to us be correct, have little reason to regret this, small courtesy having been shown to those gentlemen connected with the periodical press who took the trouble to attend.

COST OF SEWERS IN CHESTER.

The following are the results of a recent competition for the sewerage of some of the streets in the city of Chester, under Mr. Baylis, borough engineer:—

	St. Anne-street.	Castle-street.	Bridge-street.	Charles-street.	Common-hall-street.	Henry-street.	Lyon-street.	Pitt-street.	Tower-street.	Weaver-street.	Wellington-street.	Other streets.	Back Brook street.	Cuppin-street.		
	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	9" or 12" by 12"	12 Glazed Pipes	15" Brick Drains	18" Glazed Pipes	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
E. Jones	15 2	21 10	20	5	15 5	21 7	14 9	17 10	13 3	15 5	29 6	15 5	20 5	14 1	8 10	13 3
G. Last	†7 3	†0 6	6	0	7 0	10 6	†6 0	†7 6	†5 0	†6 0	10 6	†7 0	6 6	†6 0	..	6 6
— Townshend	11 0	13 0	13 0	0	11 0	13 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	13 0	11 0	13 0	7 6	..	9 0
W. Andrews	..	12† 6	10† 0		..	..	..	..	..	10 3	..	10†0	..	8 6	..	7 0
R. Evans	12 0	..	..	11 0	..	10 6	13 0	10 6	10 6	..	11 6	..	9 6	..	..	..
P. Jones	8 9	12 9	12 0	9 0	11†0	7 6	8 9	6 9	7 6	11†0	9 0	12 0	7 0	†7 6	..	†7 3
R. Roberts	7 9	13 6	13 0	7 3	14 0	7 0	8 0	7 0	7 0	12 0	7 8	9 9	6 6	7 6	..	6 6
J. Knight	9 8	14 0	12 0	9 0	12 0	8 6	10 0	8 6	8 6	10 6	9 6	11 0	6 6	..	..	8 0
J. Mulligan	8 0	..	..	..	..	.8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	..	8 6	..	8 6	..	..	..

The streets marked thus * are in rock.

The tenders marked thus † were accepted, founded upon a schedule of prices (at per linea yard), and including excavation.

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

At the opening of Thornbury Church, Gloucestershire, recently restored, as already mentioned, under Mr. Niblett,* the Rev. George Madden, the rural dean, said in the course of his sermon—"We should recollect the purposes for which we build churches. We should make them suitable for Christian worship. We should make them in all their design, arrangements, furniture, and ornaments, such as may meet the requirements of devout members of Christ's church, who desire to meet together for public worship. We should recollect the various parts of Christian worship—confession, prayer, praise, preaching, and administration of the sacraments, and we should make our churches, in all their parts and arrangements, suitable for these holy purposes. Whatsoever is calculated to remind us of our faith and of our duty—whatsoever is calculated to excite feelings of awe, and reverence, and devotion—whatsoever is calculated to help us in raising our hearts and thoughts to God—that should meet our eyes when we enter into the House of God! * * * * *

We all know, brethren, that God will hear a Christian's prayer at all times and in all places. From our beds and from our fields—from the shop—from the market—from the highway, may prayer rise acceptably to the Throne of Grace. The poor settler, in the wild forests of America, may rest from his work, and kneel down and make his voice to be heard on high, as easily as the queen of this land in our noblest cathedral; but still both reason and piety teach us that whatever we offer to God should be of the best which our circumstances will enable us to obtain. David refused to offer unto God that which cost him nothing. Let all church building and church restoring be carried on in the same excellent spirit. Next, as to the internal arrangements of our churches. The time will not allow me to notice many, but I will say a few words concerning the chief. Our Lord commanded his apostles to go and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. In every church, therefore, the first object which should meet the eye upon entering is the font. It is placed generally near the principal entrance, to signify to us that by baptism we enter into the church, and that until we have been baptised we are unfit to join in Christian worship: it should be raised somewhat higher than the ordinary seats, in order that every one may see infants baptised, and thus be reminded of his own Christian profession, and urged to live according to it; and it should be large enough to allow of an infant being baptised by immersion,—because though, in this cold climate, the practice of the church is generally to baptise by sprinkling (which is doubtless sufficient), yet if any one is scrupulous upon this point he may have his scruples satisfied, and no unnecessary stumbling-block thrown in his way.

Next, at the entrance of the chancel, either in it or near to it, should be seen the prayer-desk at which the minister is to stand or kneel in leading the devotions of the assembled congregation. Among those objects which constitute Christian worship, and for which we assemble ourselves in the house of God, are—confessions of sins, confession of faith, prayer, praise, thanksgiving. In these, the office of the minister is to lead the congregation, not to pray to them, or for them (himself alone), but with them. Prayer and praise is addressed to God by the whole congregation; and though the minister alone utters the words of the prayer, the whole congregation are to join mentally, and make it their own by saying Amen at the end of it. In many churches, especially small ones, where there is no objection on the ground of hearing, the prayer-desk may be turned to the east end of the chancel, or, at all events, not towards the people, in order to remind us that our prayers are addressed to God by all, both minister and people,—that they are not what the congregation are merely to sit and listen to, but to join in and offer up, on their knees, as their own humble supplications before the throne of God. The pulpit, on the contrary (which is generally placed near it), is invariably turned towards the congregation, because the sermon is an address to the congregation. When a person speaks to others, he naturally turns to them, so that he may best be heard by them. On this account the pulpits in our churches are generally raised somewhat higher than the prayer-desks, and are so placed that all present may best hear the words spoken,—not unnecessarily high, so as often to exalt preaching above prayer and the sacraments, and to encourage the notion (which is, alas! too common among ignorant persons,) that the sermon is the most important part of the service, but sufficiently high, so as best to answer the purpose intended, and to give to preaching its due place and importance among the ordinances of Christ's Church. The communion-table is allowed by the rules of the church to be either in the body of the church or in the chancel, but it is almost universally placed at the east end of the chancel. The receiving the holy communion of Christ's body and blood being the highest mystery of our faith, and the most solemn religious act which we can perform, it is natural and reasonable to choose for its administration the more quiet and sacred part of the building, designed especially for that sacred purpose."

* The author of the "Church Goer," an interesting series of papers published in the *Bristol Times*, says,—"Thornbury church is one of the most ancient in the neighbourhood, and was for a long time previous to the Reformation in the patronage of the Bishop of Worcester, by whom, we believe, it was appropriated to the profit and use of the Abbey of Tewkesbury. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, selected the adjoining land for the site of his castle, and the bluff king and his consort were at one time, for several days, the distinguished guests of his grace; so that we have good grounds for presuming that the royal personages attended prayers in the building which has been just restored. The habitation of human greatness, the monument of this world's pride and grandeur, is in ruins; the wild birds build their nests in the ivy which clothes the walls of what were once tapestried chambers and suites of banquetting rooms; but the sacred edifice whose battlements were raised long before the foundation stone of the castle was laid, still stands, as it were, to show how fabrics appropriated to sacred purposes will outlive those dedicated to the pomps and vanities of this world."

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